

June 26, 2009

Ms. Catherine R. McCabe  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance  
Mail Code: 2201A  
USEPA Headquarters  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Request for 90-day Extension of the No Action Assurance Letters

Dear Ms. McCabe:

Since Hurricane Katrina struck Louisiana in 2005, the EPA has provided invaluable support to the State of Louisiana and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (the Department) in our response efforts. The No Action Assurance Letters (NAAs) have greatly facilitated the recovery and rebuilding in the parishes devastated by Hurricane Katrina. We sincerely appreciate the continued support of the EPA in the state's recovery efforts.

The last extension of the NAAs on March 31, 2009 addressed the demolition activities remaining in Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes, and the City of Slidell in St. Tammany Parish and greatly facilitated the completion of the remaining demolitions. As of June 26, 2009, these parishes have completed an additional 350 residential demolitions under the NAAs and the total FEMA-eligible demolitions completed are 17,730.

The Department and EPA's regulatory oversight has not indicated any significant issues with the ongoing demolition activities. Demolition contractors are submitting their perimeter air monitoring data to LDEQ as required by the NAAs. Based on our review of this data, there has been no exceedance of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) time-weighted average (TWA) limit.

All of the residential demolitions in Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Tammany, and Orleans Parishes have been completed. However, St. Bernard Parish will have less than a few hundred FEMA-eligible demolitions to be completed after June 30, 2009. While this local government continues to address demolition activities and the Department continues regulatory oversight, we must again request a 90-day extension of the NAAs through September 30, 2009 for St. Bernard Parish.

If you have any questions regarding this matter or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (225) 219-3710.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peggy M. Hatch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peggy" being more prominent.

Peggy M. Hatch  
Assistant Secretary

c: Lawrence Starfield, Acting Regional Administrator, USEPA Region 6 (6RA)  
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

John Blevins, Director, USEPA Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division,  
Region 6 (6EN), 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200, Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Senator Jody Amedee, Chairman, LA State Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
P.O. Box 94183, Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Representative Gordon E. Dove, Chairman, LA State House Natural Resources and  
Environment Committee, P.O. Box 94062, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9032

Jim Stark, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Debris and Demolition, One  
Seine Court, New Orleans, LA 70114

Craig P. Taffaro, St. Bernard Parish President, 8201 W. Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette, LA 70434